

REMARKS

The Examiner's Office Action of March 22, 2004 has been received and its contents reviewed. Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the consideration given to the above-identified application.

By the above actions, claim 95 has been amended, while claims 1-72, 117-122 and 142 have been previously cancelled. Accordingly, claims 73-116, 123-141 and 143-155 are pending for consideration, of which claims 73, 80, 87, 93, 99, 105, 111, 123 and 129 are independent. In view of these actions and the following remarks, reconsideration of this application is now requested.

Referring now to the detailed Office Action, claims 73-116, 123-141 and 143-155 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Zhang et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,563,426 – hereafter Zhang '426). This rejection is respectfully traversed at least for the reasons provided below.

Applicants hereby incorporate by reference the arguments provided in the Amendment filed January 26, 2004 and the Response filed January 25, 2002. Further to the previously submitted arguments, Applicants respectfully acknowledge that Zhang '426 discloses that TFTs are arranged so that semiconductor regions 6 would not cross the intercrystalline boundary 4. However, Zhang '426 does not disclose or suggest a channel-forming region having no grain boundary.

Applicants respectfully assert that the semiconductor regions 6, which is formed in the shaded portion 3 of Zhang '426, include grain boundaries, since crystal grains grow radially from the island nickel region 2 and grain boundaries are generated along with the crystal growth. This technical issue is taught and supported by, e.g., Fig. 2A and column 4, lines 38-57 of U.S. Patent No. 6,011,275 issued to Ohtani et al., and Fig. 5A, 5B, and column 8, lines 27-51, for example, of U.S. Patent No. 5,894,137 issued to Yamazaki et al. The Examiner is invited to review these references, attached herewith, which clearly explain crystal growth and its relationship with grain boundary.

Claim 95 has been amended to change its dependency to claim 93.

In view of the amendment and arguments set forth above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of all the pending §103(a) rejection.

While the present application is now believed to be in condition for allowance, should the Examiner find some issue to remain unresolved, or should any new issues arise, which could be eliminated through discussions with Applicants' representative, then the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone in order that the further prosecution of this application can thereby be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Luan C. Do', written over a horizontal line.

Luan C. Do
Registration No. 38,434

NIXON PEABODY LLP
Suite 900, 401 9th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004-2128
(202) 585-8000

JLC/LCD